## A patient's guide to the North Alabama Hospitalist program

Our goal is to provide comprehensive, compassionate care of the highest quality to all of our patients. If you are admitted as a patient to the hospital, you may be cared for by one or more hospitalists during your stay.

#### What is a hospitalist?

A hospitalist is a physician who specializes in caring for patients while they are in the hospital. Our hospitalists are board certified in internal medicine, family medicine and/or other specialties. Our hospitalists do not see patients outside the hospital so they are able to dedicate their attention to hospitalized patients.

#### The Hospitalist team

In addition to physicians, the hospitalist team includes physician assistants (PAs) and certified registered nurse practitioners (CRNPs). The hospitalist team is available 24-hours to provide care to patients in the hospital. Depending on the length of your stay, you may see more than one hospitalist.

#### Who is cared for by a hospitalist?

- Patients of local physicians and medical groups who have chosen to use the hospitalist program
- Patients who do not have a primary care physician
- Patients from outside the region who do not have a local primary care physician.

### Benefits of hospitalist care

- Hospitalists work only in the hospital and are on site 24 hours daily.
- Hospitalists are readily available in emergency situations and when questions or concerns arise.
- Hospitalists are familiar with hospital procedures and processes to boost efficiency when ordering tests, consulting other specialists and adjusting treatments.

#### How does the hospitalist work with my doctor?

- When you are admitted to the hospital, your primary care physician is informed of your condition by the hospitalist team.
- While in the hospital, the hospitalist will oversee your care and may communicate with your primary care physician as needed throughout your hospital stay.
- The hospitalist will assist with the transition back to your primary care physician when you leave the hospital.
- Your primary care physician may visit you while you are in the hospital. However, it is more common that you will see your primary care physician after you are discharged from the hospital.

### What if I do not have a Primary Care Physician?

It is important to have a Primary Care Physician to help manage your health after you have been discharged from the Hospital. You will find a list of Huntsville Hospital Clinics within this folder.

### Will I receive a separate bill for hospitalist services?

Yes. It will come from the North Alabama Hospitalist group. If you have any questions, please contact the Physicians Network Billing Office at (256) 265-9438.

### Where can I get my FMLA forms completed for my hospital stay?

All forms can be faxed to (256) 265-3886 and your physician will complete the information for the time you were a patient in the hospital. This will be from the date you are admitted until the date you are discharged. If recovery time is required after your discharge, your physician will note that on the forms. We do not complete disability forms. Your Primary Care Physician must complete those for you.

### What should I do if I start feeling badly after I am discharged from the hospital?

Call your Primary Care Physician. If you do not have a Primary Care Physician, you can go to an urgent care clinic or return to the Huntsville Hospital Emergency Room.

### What happens if I need a refill on medications prescribed to me while I was in the hospital?

Once you are discharged, the hospitalists are not allowed to refill any prescriptions. Your Primary Care Physician must refill any medications as they will be managing your health care once you are discharged.

#### For more information

For additional details or to ask questions about the hospitalist program, ask your nurse to contact your hospitalist or call the North Alabama Hospitalist office at (256) 265-3880.

# Health





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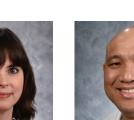
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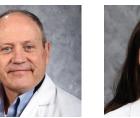
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### **Our CRNPs**



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John Edmonds, CRNP



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